AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Previously Presented)** A method for automatically filling tablets into tablet containers comprising at least one tablet compartment for receiving tablets, the method comprising:

 receiving a patient order containing a patient identification and at least one prescription comprising prescription data regarding the types of tablets to be taken by the patient and instructions for taking said tablets;

 allocating the prescription data and patient identification to respective tablet containers;

 automatically filling at least one tablet compartment of a respective tablet container by means of at least one automatic tablet dispenser containing supplies of a plurality of tablet types,

 wherein the number of tablets of the respective types of tablets to be taken by a patient at certain times is determined from the prescription data and a tablet compartment of a tablet container is allocated to each determined time for taking the tablets and the tablets thus determined are filled in the tablet container for each determined time for taking them into the respective tablet compartment that has been allocated;

 sealing and delivering the filled tablet containers.

2. **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling method according to claim 1, wherein the allocation of prescription data and patient identification to respective tablet containers comprises the transmission of prescription data and patient identification to one or several information carriers and the allocation of a respective information carrier to one tablet container at a time.

3. **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling method according to claim 2, wherein an electronic data carrier, which preferably is writable and readable in a non-

contact manner, or a printable substrate such as a bar-code label is provided as an information carrier.

4.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling method according to claim 2, wherein the automatic filling of at least one tablet compartment of a respective tablet container by at least one automatic tablet dispenser comprises conveying the tablet containers and the information carriers allocated thereto jointly through the at least one automatic tablet dispenser;

reading out the prescription data stored on the information carrier by the respective automatic tablet dispenser;

checking by means of the respective automatic tablet dispenser as to whether the supplies of tablet types stored in it correspond to one of the tablet types contained in the prescription data and, in case of correspondence,

determining the number of tablets of the respective types of tablets to be taken by the patient at certain times and allocating a tablet compartment to each determined time for taking the tablets, and

filling the determined tablets into the respective tablet compartment that has been allocated.

5.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling method according to claim 1, wherein upon receiving the patient order, a plausibility check of the prescription data regarding a possible overdosage and the mutual compatibility between tablet types is carried out and, in case an overdosage or an incompatibility is detected, the patient order is rejected.

6.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling method according to claim 1, wherein the tablet containers are provided with at least one of information derived from the prescription data, instructions for taking the tablets, and the patient identification, by at least one of imprinting and labeling the tablet container.

7.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling method according to claim 1, wherein if errors occur during the implementation of the tablet filling process for a tablet container, the tablet filling process is stopped and the tablet container is eliminated.

8.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling method according to claim 24, wherein if errors occur during the implementation of the tablet filling process for a tablet container, error identifications are written onto the information carrier allocated to said tablet container and tablet containers marked with error identifications in this way are eliminated during the delivery.

9.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling method according to claim 8, wherein prior to each processing step of the tablet filling process, it is checked for each tablet container as to whether the information carrier allocated to said tablet container contains an error identification and, upon detection of such an error identification, the respective processing step is not carried out.

10.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling method according to claim 1, wherein the delivery of the filled tablet containers comprises collecting all tablet containers belonging to a respective patient order.

11.   **(Previously Presented)** A system for automatically filling tablets into tablet containers comprising at least one tablet compartment for receiving tablets, the system comprising:

reception means for receiving a patient order containing a patient identification and at least one prescription comprising prescription data regarding the types of tablets to be taken by the patient and instructions for taking said tablets;

allocation means for allocating the prescription data and patient identification to respective tablet containers;

at least one automatic tablet dispenser containing supplies of a plurality of tablet types for automatically filling at least one tablet compartment of a respective tablet container,

wherein the allocation means or the automatic tablet dispenser is/are designed for determining, from the prescription data, the number of tablets of the respective types of tablets to be taken by a patient at certain times and for allocating a tablet compartment of a tablet container to each determined time for

taking the tablets, and the automatic tablet dispenser is designed for filling the tablet container with the tablets thus determined for each determined time for taking them into the tablet compartment of the respective tablet container, which compartment has been allocated;

   closing means for sealing the filled tablet containers.

12. **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling system according to claim 11, wherein the allocation means are designed for transmitting the prescription data and patient identification to one or several information carriers and for allocating a respective information carrier to one tablet container at a time.

13. **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling system according to claim 12, wherein the information carrier is an electronic data carrier, which is writable and readable in at least one of a non-contact manner, and a printable substrate such as a bar-code label.

14. **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling system according to claim 12, wherein the automatic tablet dispenser is designed for reading out the prescription data stored on the information carrier and for filling tablets into tablet compartments of the tablet container allocated to the information carrier according to the number of tablets of the respective types of tablets to be taken by the patient at certain times, which number is determinable from the prescription data.

15. **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling system according to claim 11, wherein for each tablet container a support facility is provided on which the tablet container is conveyable through the tablet filling system.

16. **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling system according to claim 28, wherein the information carrier is placed on the support facility.

17. **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling system according to claim 11, wherein each automatic tablet dispenser comprises a plurality of tablet dispensing stations, each containing a supply of a tablet type and being designed for dispensing an adjustable number of tablets to random tablet compartments of the tablet containers.

18.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling system according to claim 11, wherein the reception means are designed for checking the prescription data for a possible overdosage and the mutual compatibility between tablet types and for rejecting the patient order in case an overdosage or an incompatibility is detected.

19.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling system according to claim 11, wherein at least one of printing and labelling means for providing the tablet containers with information derived from at least one of the prescription data, instructions for taking the tablets, and the patient identification.

20.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling system according to claim 12, wherein the information carriers are designed for receiving error identifications, and control means are provided which are designed for reading the error identifications from the information carriers and eliminating tablet containers marked with error identifications.

21.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling system according to claim 11, wherein collecting means are provided for collecting all tablet containers belonging to a respective patient order.

22.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling system according to claim 11, wherein each tablet dispensing station comprises a plurality of tablet dispensing units supplied by a common tablet magazine, with the tablet dispensing units preferably being designed as rotary dispensing units.

23.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling system according to claim 22, wherein the tablet magazine is connectable to a replaceable buffer container.

24.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling method according to claim 2, wherein if errors occur during the implementation of the tablet filling process for a tablet container, the tablet filling process is stopped and the tablet container is eliminated.

25.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling method according to claim 3, wherein if errors occur during the implementation of the tablet filling process for a tablet container, the tablet filling process is stopped and the tablet container is eliminated.

26.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling method according to claim 25, wherein if errors occur during the implementation of the tablet filling process for a tablet container, error identifications are written onto the information carrier allocated to said tablet container and tablet containers marked with error identifications in this way are eliminated during the delivery.

27.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling method according to claim 26, wherein prior to each processing step of the tablet filling process, it is checked for each tablet container as to whether the information carrier allocated to said tablet container contains an error identification and, upon detection of such an error identification, the respective processing step is not carried out.

28.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling system according to claim 12, wherein for each tablet container a support facility is provided on which the tablet container is conveyable through the tablet filling system.

29.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling system according to claim 13, wherein for each tablet container a support facility is provided on which the tablet container is conveyable through the tablet filling system.

30.   **(Previously Presented)** A tablet filling system according to claim 29, wherein the information carrier is placed on the support facility.